COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Newburgh Sept 3d. 1844

Nothing would have afforded me greater pleasure than to have met you during your recent visit to West Point— but your letter owing the punctuality of the mail, was not received until wednesday Morning then the fear of intruding upon your limited time forbade my going. Many thanks for the Catskill plants and the trouble you have taken to preserve them— they will add greatly to my Herbarium which as yet Contains few specimens not collected by Myself— Misfortune seems to attend all that have been sent from other places. Mr Yonge of Georgia collected a great number, but the gentleman to whose care they were Committed unfortunately left them on the way. there is however some slight hope they will not be entirely lost— It is pleasant to hear that the Students have at last been Convinced there is some beauty & pleasure in the study of plants, strange it is they should not have perceived it before. Perhaps it was owing to their utilitarian notions & the fear of ridicule. I well recollect what a goodly share of it was given me for "picking weeds" Have any of them taken up the Catalogue & have you received your fine Microscope from France? Mine has been a source of great and varied instruction this summer— Of late the Pollen has been quite an object

of study. the Pollen tubes are easily brought forth on a piece of glass by dilute acid. but with all industry and patience they will not be found in the stigma either living or dead. & for no other reason I suppose than want of properly dissecting the organ. Will you if it does not interfere with other more important matters give me a word of advice on the subject.

Enclosed is a small specimen of a Solanda is it not S. Kali [Yes] " or rather with D Becks description of S. tragus - it agrees exactly with a plant given me by Mr Craven. & called by him S. Kali - Locality - the dry sand banks south of Newburgh - I have plenty of Duplicates if you want them - Pedicularis pallida. Pursh - I have found here although credited in your Catalogue only to the "Marshes near New York" -

Excuse if possible the innumerable quantity of I's appearing in this letter & ever believe me

Most truly Yours
Mina B Halsted.

HERBARIUM
GRAY HERBARIUM HARVARD UNIVERSITY

23

Prof. John Torrey

Princeton

N. Jersey.

July 21st 1846

My Dear Sir

I have just received a letter from Hastings, and am grieved to learn that your health has not been benefited by your recent excursion. Do you not think a place more removed from your busy pursuits, would be beneficial? If so I beg, that, you will make my fathers house your home for at least a short time. My Parents though personally unacquainted with yourself most heartily join with me in this invitation.—

I will be in waiting at the Wharf any day you may appoint as our house is situated at some distance from the landing

Most sincerly yours

Mina B Halsted.

Newburgh July 21st 1846.

Newburgh Oct 3d 1865.

Dear Sir.

I received your kind letter of Sept 26th on Monday and have delayed answering it that I might give you some more certain information concerning the Lythrum sent to you.

I have traced it for eight miles on each side of the Wallkill and there cannot be the slightest doubt of its being indigenous. The phraseology of the locality should be somewhat corrected, for it seems to prefer growing where the water is one or two feet deep, and still, to the meadows on the margin of the stream. Some bushes roughly measured were full nine feet in height, with stout much branched stems. So abundantly does it grow that I cannot but wonder how it has been overlooked so long. Mr. John W. Knevels I believe transplanted some to his garden last summer, and Dr Stevenson was shown a specimen sometime ago from a garden in the village as he told me yesterday. So I have not the "right of discovery"

I was led to call that Nasturtium, hispidum, from the length of the silicles in a specimen of N. palustre, given me by Dr Englemann, they are more than twice as long and much narrower. Does it vary so much?

Enclosed I send a specimen of the leaves - unfortunately I have nothing else - of the "white fruited" strawberry. It is perhaps but a variety of Fragaria Canadensis though a constant one. I have found it in three separate localities miles asunder. It bears transplanting well, retaining all its characters, excepting the berry, it

much improved in size and flavor.

I am glad to hear LeConte has returned in safety. How came he with the Dragoons & what became of his friend Soulard for whose company he forsook mine? I am surprised, though not disappointed that he brought no plants, for "picking weeds" was no favorite employment of his.

I hardly know whether to congratulate you or not on your purchase, the situation is as handsome as Princeton affords, and with the improvements you contemplate will be the most desirable residence in the place. It will be so altered, I fear I shall neither know it or be known when I have the happiness to visit you again.

The specimens of Asplenium are ready. shall I enclose them in a letter to Princeton? The Lythrums are more bulky & would be destroyed by such a conveyance. Can I assist you in any way by specimens of Ferns, I know but little about them, but can easily make a collection of such as are here if you wish them.

Yours Respectfully

Mina B. Halsted.

CORRESPONDENCE
MUSEUM
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

John Torrey M.D.
Professor of Chemistry & Botany
Princeton
N. Jersey.

New Burgh March 14th 1846

Dear Sir

I send you enclosed my application to the Secretary of the navy for a post on the on the Expedition to Oregon. Not being very well versed in the art of making petitions, I beg you will make any alteration you may think proper and redirect it to myself. but should it meet your approbation will you please send it by the Princeton mail to its destination. You will observe that I say nothing whatever of my qualification for the office. a letter from yourself would go much farther than any unassisted assertion of mine. And as you kindly offered me your influence, may I hope that you will accompany this with whatever information you may deem proper.

The desire to go westward, has much increased since my return home, and were it possible to go in any other way, than the one now now suggested, I should not hesitate a moment, but would start with one of the many parties bound for Santa Fé or California.

For any defence of what you may term fickleness in deserting my profession when tis nearly gained, I must wait some more favorable opportunity. At all events do not refer it to the mere longings of a roving, restless spirit for that be assured is not the cause.

I shall await with some degree of anxiety your answer and what you think will be the probability of success.

You spoke to me while in the city of some plants you wished for. if you will send me a list. if I have them, they are heartily at your service.

Yours truly

Prina W. Galsted

P.S. I have some few friends in the Lyceums. and could no doubt get a letter from the Society as a scientific association. in favor of my application. - Is it worth trying?

Newburgh March 26th 1846.

Dear Sir,

I received your kind letter on Saturday evening last, it should have been answered immediately had not my absence from Home prevented. I have just received a letter from Washington - of which I send you a copy - You will perceive that Mr Bancroft does not say such an expedition has not been thought of, nor that it is abandoned but seems to imply that it depends upon some action of the Senate. My information on the subject was derived from Navy Officers, one of whom Lieutenant Case, had just returned from the Navy department, said the expedition was strongly talked of as a certainty and Lieutenant O.H. Perry had been promised the command. It was not known whether it be an overland or a naval one: if overland there is time enough yet to prepare. Capt. Fremont did not leave the frontiers until June 1st. and his route to the Mountain was very indirect.

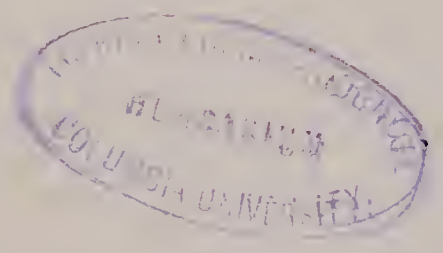
Before leaving this subject I must return you my most sincere thanks for the trouble you have taken in my behalf and for kindness as gratuitous as it is unmerited: it may be in my power at some future time to prove to you that it is not soon or often.

The weather has been very mild during the month. The Hepatica triloba is in flower on the warm hillsides. The common Alnus & Populus aloug the streams. We had a violent Hailstorm last evening wind S.E. accompanied with vivid lightning. it last'd about 20 minutes. The hailstones which were of the size of filberts caused considerable damage indeed I notice that an Elm tree situated near the house, almost

entirely stript of its buds. The plants you speak of from Mr Willis if left where Mr Knox can get them, will be sent for, or should I happen to be in the city I will call myself.

Most sincerely yours

Mina B. Halsted.



Navy Department Mar 21st 1845

Sir

Your letter of the 10th inst forwarded by Prof. Torrey, in relation to the Scientific expedition to Oregon has been received.

No such expedition has yet been authorized: when that shall be done, your letter shall be borne in mind and duly considered.

Very respectfully —

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
WASHINGTON
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

CORRESPONDENCE
H. A. GRAY 1917
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Newburgh Monday Eve. May 25.

Dear Sir,

I have sent, as you wished, a specimen of Aquilegia. I very much fear that it will not grow, for its roots ran so deeply in the crevices of the limestone rock, that the sledge & chisel were necessary to get them out, and in the endeavor to get them as entire as possible many other specimens were ruined, so that the locality is almost destroyed. I have not been able to find a single one in fruit, it does not appear to flower as profusely as the common species. All the specimens I have, are sent with this letter. You will I think be able to make something more than a mere variety of it. The "horns" of do not protrude beyond the calyx until after the expansion of the flower. 'Tis much slower in habit than A. Canadensis, & grows in company with it. in some cases their roots intertwine. those sent you are the largest specimens I have seen.

Respectfully Yours

Mina B. Halsted

I shall soon have some fine plants of the Fragaria. with which I troubled you so much a year or two ago, - I hope you will be able to see them in situ & eat the fruit this Summer.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
LIBRARIUM

New York Sept 24 1846

Dear Sir,

I have been writing somewhat for the essay (such I suppose it might be called) and find it rather more difficult than I had anticipated— 'Tis harder to suit myself as to arrangement and composition, and to think it will suit others equally well, than it would be to take an original subject and write a like number of pages upon it. By tuesday I may be able to shew you some progress, you can then prune or cast aside at your good will & pleasure. I'm sure you'll be obliged & do it gruly, if not to reject the whole. If I could see the rest of the "Geography" it would be better than anything else as a guide. Dr Pickering's Chatter is too elaborate and embodies more information than I profess, beside it is much longer and more scientific than is wanted here.

Mr Bolton says Mr Schäeffer's experiments will not be ready until some time next week. You will of course not be in the City until that

time. I expect our family will remove hither on monday or tuesday ~~to~~ remain permanently, at least for the winter. I shall then be less pressed for time, than at present. I am sorry this matter of writing could not ~~have~~ been delayed for a week or two, I should have felt very much more fit for the business than now -

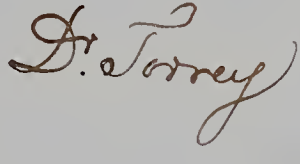
Mr Knox has been scrubbing out the Laboratory, it needed it. 'tis ~~now~~ in better condition than when you saw it last, though even now there is not much order to it -

In the Garden At Home ~~are~~ quite a number of fine, thrifty white grape vines have sprung from cuttings. they can be removed as well as not, do you wish them?

Yours Respectfully
Mina B. Halsted

CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

I prepared some specimens of Mikleburgia for you, I am afraid they will not be good ones. The leaves having already commenced to wither at the tips.



TORREY BOTANICAL CLUB
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Puente Nacional April 10th 47

My Dear Friend.

I would that I could give expression to one half the thoughts that have filled my breast during our weary march hither, I'm too tired to night to sleep and as an express starts in the morning for Vera Cruz ~~and~~ I seize the opportunity of writing to you and home. But why should I do either? Not a letter, not a message has reached me of those I love best. In the trenches before Vera Cruz whilst shot & shell were striking around us, my thoughts were with them. When we stormed the Saucers at Madalline, when men fell by my side dead & wounded, did still thought of those I had left. and am I forgotten?

Should I live to be as old as Adam I never shall forget our march hither. We left on the 9th at midday and by forced marches arrived in thirtysix hours. The excessive heat & want of all water caused many a poor fellow to falter & lag by the way. But of 700 men who composed the Regt ~~of~~ 110 were found in Rank & file when we crossed the

the Puerta del Rey - & they fatigued as they were would have engaged an enemy of ten times their number had they found them -

Tis impossible to conceive the reason why the Mexicans have retreated from this place - None in Mexico could be more easily defended nor where an invading army would so surely be repulsed - Between cliffs as high as the Palasades on the Hudson runs a rapid mountain stream - spanned by a magnificent bridge of ten Arches over which passes the grand national road - with several hills crowned by forts & batteries the Coup. d'oeil is one of the most beautiful & fascinating that has ever been My fortune to witness - Notwithstanding my extreme fatigue (for I've marched nearly the entire way, having unfortunately lost my horse the night after we started) I climbed the summit of one of the Vast cliffs & gazed with wonder on the scene. The Castle crowned the height the deep ravine & the rear guard of the Army at the moment passing along, with its banners unfurled and drums beating - the distant Range of Mountains with snow capped Orozava, towering to the skies - Oh! I would have given anything

LORREY COR HERB COLUMBIA

to have had you by my side, and share the pleasure with me —

Perhaps if we ever meet I can give a better description than I can write aided by some few drawings I have made —

We have often occasion to admire the public works of the Spaniards but none have called forth greater Encomiums upon their taste, than this the National road to the City of Mexico — Where the soil permitted — It is paved as a city street with square blocks. Near to Vera Cruz & wherever the sands were deep, Asphalt & Clay have been used to cement not only the bed, but the sides of the road for many feet. forming a smooth, unbroken floor most delightful to travel o'er — Since the Expulsion of the Spaniards it has fallen to decay excepting in the immediate neighborhood of Santa Anna's farm & Haciendas —

We passed Manclova his favorite residence yesterday & left every thing undisturbed, even his horses were untouched — but would he have done the same, had it been Gn Scotts? —

Heaven — there goes the "long roll" —

the Order "fall in" "fall in" shows that we have still further to go this night —

Adieu — Sincerely yours

M. B.A.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

P.S. An Express from Gen Twiggs who is in advance Orders us on the Enemy and before him in force the give battle to morrow

X X X

If so I may never write to you again —

Farewell remember me to Eddie all —

Rec'd Dec. 1847

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

City of Mexico October 24th 1847

My Dear Sir,

I with pleasure introduce to yourself and family Brigadier General Shields. An officer whose name and reputation you cannot fail to be familiar with, he having taken an active part in the struggles on the Rio Grande as well as those from Vera Cruz to the Capital. You will find him an agreable and valuable acquaintance, his knowledge of the country through which he has travelled, his familiarity with the language an people; and above all his high rank have given him opportunities which do not fall to the lot of everyone, for observing the civil and natural history of the land you are so much interested in.

Any attention you can show him during his short visit to New York, I shall feel far more grateful for than if given personally to myself.

Most Respty

Yours

Miss B. Baldwin

Prof. John Torrey.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM

TORREY BOTANICAL CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

New York Aug 1 1848

My Dear Sir,

I have but just returned from a trip to the west & find awaiting me your brief but kind note of Aug 10th. I also received at Fort Hamilton the very day I left the city, your first letter which seems to have travelled the roundabout of Washington so that it was more than a week before it reached my hands & then at such a moment that 'twas impossible to answer it.

I sincerely regret the miscarriage of the letter sent to Mexico though they but shared a common fate with nearly two-thirds of letters sent to the army because the mails were either badly arranged or that they were captured by the Mexicans; out of more than 200 that I wrote home; they received not more than twenty, and I can assure you that it was no great inducement to write letter after letter & not get the slightest acknowledgement of them — Throughout the Campaign Botany had but little attention paid to it excepting as now & then an opportunity occurred at a camp — of two or three days and even than 'twas dangerous to venture more than six hundred yards beyond the picket guard lest you should be lassoed and killed; indeed we lost many a man within a less distance — Even whilst stationed in cities our orders were strict never to go unarmed so that with arms & swords one could collect but little than wayside plants after all. Whilst Vera Cruz was besieged I was almost every day detailed to with some Scouting party into the interior

I have managed to get together some five or six thousand specimens of plants peculiar to the tierra caliente, & but when the Army moved towards Cerro gordo transportation was so limited, that I was obliged to leave behind, my trunks and plants & I have never been able to find a trace of either since that time, although they were left in the Quartermasters department — Besides those sent you I have now some few hundred pressed up in various places on the high lands near the city of Mexico & the mountains of Toluca & Real del Monte they may be interesting to you and are at your disposal if you wish them. I have also some Specimens of Silver ore from Guanajuato & Real del Monte Some Lava. Pumice & Obsidian collected in the Crater of the Volcano of Ahuasco a short time before the City was evacuated. —

You must not expect any great things, as all plants were hastily picked up & pressed in the best manner occasion offered — In making these expeditions we were always mounted & our movements so rapid in order to prevent surprise, that but little time could be spent in making collections & still less for preserving them after made.

I have no prospect of remaining in the Service with my present rank, & I will not enter now at the bottom of those I have preceded during the war. Had the Army been increased by retaining even one Regt. I had the positive promise of the Surgeon General that I should be Surgeon of that Regt. & I make known that my name stands first on the list in the Department for such promotion —

In reference to the ~~Coast~~ Boundry Survey it would

suit my present views if I could but get the post as it is my intention to return at no very distant day ~~with~~ ~~bar~~ Mexico it would throw me in contact with Spaniards, enable me to perfect myself in the language as well as to acquire a thorough knowledge of a country concerning which even the Mexicans possess but meager information it would to serve to add some little I hope to Botanical knowledge

If then 'tis possible through your kind interest & the influence I may possess in Washington to get the position you mention, I would at once resigned all views I may have of entering into any engagements in New York although they might be more lucrative, and turn my attention for the time being to studies more nearly allied to natural science than medicine

With kindest regards to Mrs Torrey and the young ladies I am hastily but Sincerely Yours

Mina B. Nash

John Torrey M.D.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

P.S. I will write you again on monday & to to the Surgeon General this evening - When will you be in New York? Soon I hope.

Sir.

Right. I am
that I should . "
that my name stands
Department for such promoti
In reference to the ~~Coast~~

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

New York Sept. 1st 1848.

My Dear Sir,

I found the enclosed letter from a friend in the Surg. Gen. Office on my return from Princeton. It throws some little light upon the surveying expedition, and upon the chances in my favor. Dr Lawson (Surg. Gen.) will give me his favor. See Marcy I'm sure will, & whether I can bring any influence to bear upon Mr Buchanan remains to be seen. In regard to Emory I have learned since my arrival that the only competitor he may expect is Maj. Graham Topl. Eng. he also is a relative of Mr Walker - D Mower U.S.A. who is higher in the confidences of the department (ranking next the Surg. Gen.). Say that should a person be appointed from civil life, they will be induced to choose some one, who has science enough to take charge & certain branch, Botany for example - Would it not be as well to mention that to have some knowledge of the sciences in your letter to Col Emory, if you have not already done so?

Yours most truly
M. D. Hosted.

Prof. John Torrey.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

New York Sept. 11. 1866.

My Dear Sir.

I had the pleasure of receiving this morning your kind note & its enclosure (Col. Emory's letter) the encouragement it holds out is indeed strong & I trust I shall ultimately be successful. - Most of the Cabinet are still at the north and nothing will be done until they reassemble in Washington this week or next. -

In a few days I shall have a private opportunity of sending to the City of Mexico and if you can make up a small parcel of N. American plants for Señor Bustamente I will forward them. I know he would be delighted to receive them & in return would [send] ;

Valuable Mexican ones. If there are any particular families you wish for most, it would be well to mention the subject in a letter; which may be either in English or which I will translate into Spanish if you prefer it.

LeConte has not yet returned from the West, the Major told me on Saturday that he was at Drummond's Island looking for fossils & insects, & would come back by the way of Toronto & Quebec.

I shall go on to Washington as soon as 'tis practicable — perhaps this week — When if you will favor me with a letter to Mr Marcy, either private or introductory I think it would be of great benefit. Though I have many very recomendatory both to him & others of the Cabinet.

HARRIS CORRESPONDENCE

Truly Your obliged
Friend & Servt
M. P. Hartley

Col. Emory's letter I have given to Keating as you requested.

What shall I do with my plants they are nearly ruined?

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Panamá. Sept. 13. 1854

My Dear Sir,

I have been applied to since my return, for information as to the price of crude platina in the U.S. and whether the war in Europe has at all enhanced its value. I know no one who could give me better information than yourself & I trust you will excuse the liberty I have taken in troubling you with a matter of business. Will you do me the favor to reply by return mail under cover to care of William Nelson Esq Panamá -
The province of Choco abounds in platina and if the price would be at in any way remunerative considerable quantities might be secured -

Your Sincerely
M. B. Hollis

Prof. John Torrey
New York.